Complaints of poaching

621. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints of poaching have been received by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Incidences of poaching have come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Protection of wildlife and management of Protected Areas are primarily the responsibilities of the concerned State Governments. The Ministry under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes provides necessary financial and technical assistance to the State Governments for wildlife conservation, control of poaching and management of protected areas. Under these Schemes financial assistance is provided for infrastructure development, improved communication systems, purchase of fire arms, construction of watch towers and check posts, establishing anti-poaching camps, etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Vulture breeding

622. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT ADN FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to stop the use of drugs which have been a cause for disappearance of vultures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some States have taken steps in the direction of vulture breeding; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to encourage more States in this direction in order to save the vultures from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The issue of decline in population of three species of vultures in the country was discussed in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife in 2005 wherein it was recommended that the veterinary drug diclofenac should be banned. Accordingly the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken up the matter with the concerned Ministries and organizations to place a ban on diclofenac which has been identified as the major causative factor for the decline in the vulture population.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, vulture conservation and breeding centres have been established at Pinjore, Haryana and Buxa, West Bengal in 2001 and 2005 respectively. Ministry through Central Zoo Authority, has decided to provide financial and technical assistance to States for establishment of vulture conservation centers in related zoos.

Wall along Mumbai's coastal line

623. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the last killer Tsunami, Maharashtra has a plan of Rupees 107 crores to build retaining walls along a 13 Km. stretch along Mumbai's coastal line besides repairs plan of Worli wall; and

(b) if so, the financial grant provided by the Centre to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Water Quality of Yamuna

624. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the grade in which the water quality of Yamuna river around Delhi falls for the last more than two decades as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board;